

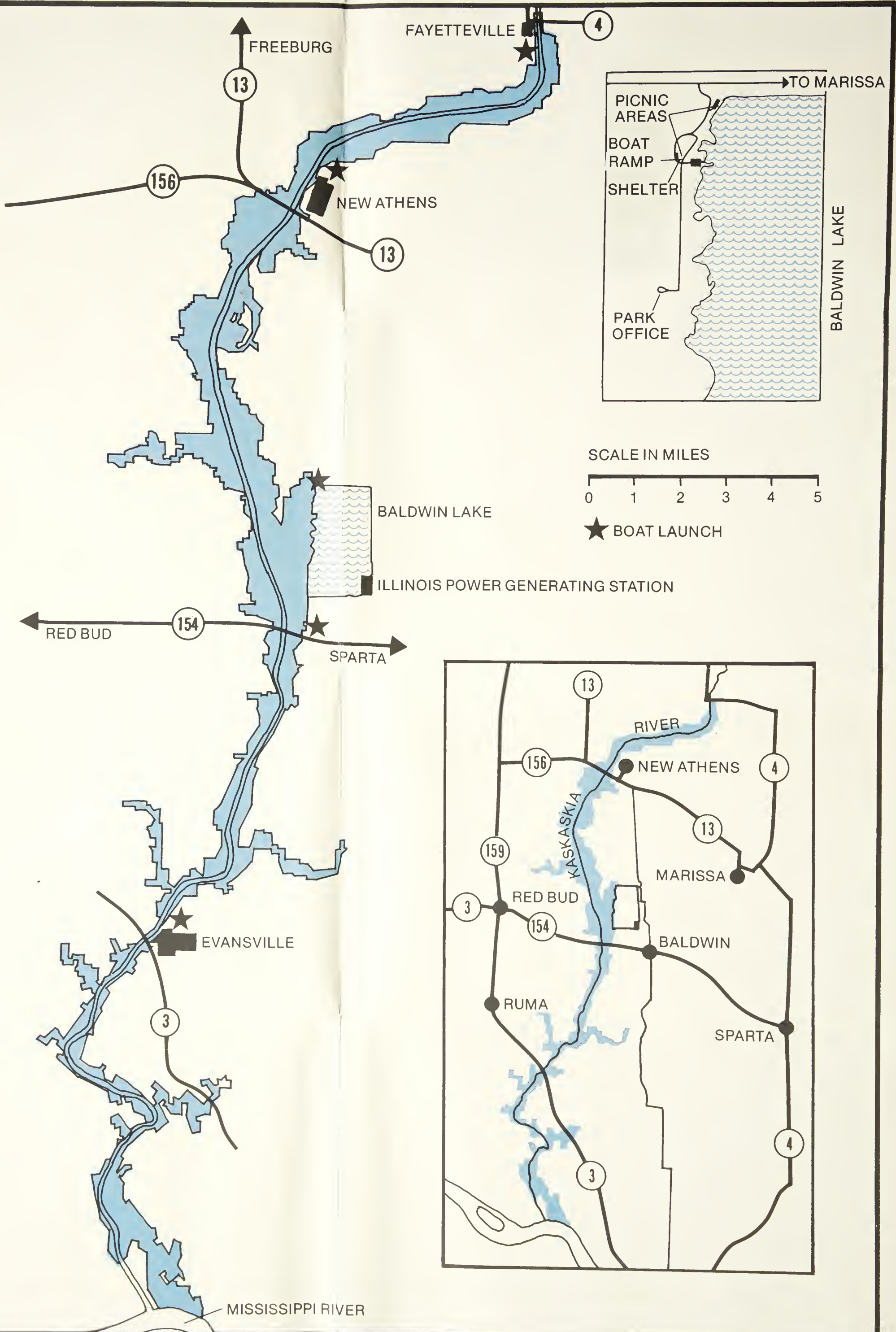
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skaskia river

FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA





THE AREA

Kaskaskia River Fish and Wildlife Area is one of the largest properties managed by the State of Illinois, Department of Conservation. The total area is approximately 20,000 acres and extends along the Kaskaskia River from Fayetteville to the Mississippi River. Most of the land along the Kaskaskia River is owned by the Illinois Dept. of Transportation and is leased to the Conservation Department to manage for fish and wildlife purposes. Within the area is a 2018 acre reservoir built by Illinois Power Company to provide a source of cooling water for use in operating their electric generating station. They have leased the lake to the Illinois Department of Conservation to provide recreational benefits to anglers, hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts. Baldwin Lake in receiving the warmed waters used in cooling the condensers has developed into an outstanding winter fishing area. The lake is virtually free of ice cover and the area of warmest water attracts fish and therefore the anglers.

The reservoir is north of Baldwin in southern Illinois in Randolph and St. Clair Counties.

HISTORY

Kaskaskia River Fish and Wildlife Area is situated in a traditionally agricultural area with farm fields and small towns. In more recent years several coal fields have been developed nearby.

The local economic structure has progressed from a predominantly agricultural base to one of intermediate characteristics with many residents residing in a semi-rural setting and commuting to jobs in the metropolitan areas in and near East St. Louis and Belleville.

NATURAL FEATURES

Kaskaskia River Fish and Wildlife Area possesses a wide variety of terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Water acres include Baldwin Lake (2,018 acres) and Kaskaskia River with associated side channel and backwater areas (2200 acres).

The land area of about 18,000 acres includes an extensive mixed bottomland forest comprised of pecan, soft maple, burr oak, pin oak, shellbark hickory and willow. Adjacent to this on the uplands are stands of mature oak-hickory. Interspersed throughout the forests are small farm fields providing yet another habitat type.

Lands along the Kaskaskia River have been extensively modified by the channelization of the river to promote commercial navigation.

The land bordering the western side of the lake is planted to fescue and wheat to pro-

vide browse for migrating geese. An observation platform is located near the parking lot to provide visitors and opportunity to observe the wide variety of waterfowl and other bird life present on the area.

ACTIVITIES

Fishing: Fishing is the major activity on the area with Baldwin Lake and the Kaskaskia River providing contrasting opportunities. Baldwin Lake is managed as a fishing lake and provides excellent fishing for large-mouth bass, crappie, white bass and other species.

The Kaskaskia River offers a change of pace in providing some fine crappie, bluegill and white bass angling in a stream setting. Other species of fish that also provide opportunity for recreational river fishing include channel catfish, largemouth bass, carp, freshwater drum, flathead catfish and sauger.

Boating: A concrete launching ramp and boat docks are located in the northwest corner of the lake. A 50 H.P. motor limit is enforced. Certain areas of the lake are restricted and access buoys should be obeyed.

Launch ramps are provided for the Kaskaskia River at Fayetteville, on Route 154 west of Baldwin and at Evansville. Also a launch ramp has recently been completed at New Athens.

Camping: Primitive camping will be permitted on lands adjacent to the river. Check with the Site Superintendent for locations and access information.



Please: This area is for all to enjoy so help keep it clean. Put all litter in the nearest available trash container.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

Groups of 25 or more persons will not be admitted to any state site unless permission from the site superintendent has been obtained to use the facilities. In addition, groups of minors must have adequate supervision and at least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state sites are within easy access of every part of Illinois. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette and Giant City; White Pines Forest has cabins and dining rooms only, and Black Hawk has dining rooms only. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

Most state sites are open year round, except on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to facilities is by foot only.

For more details about this site contact Site Superintendent, Kaskaskia River Fish and Wildlife Area, Baldwin, IL 62217; phone (618) 785-2555. For information on other Illinois recreation areas write Department of Conservation, Land and Historic Sites, 605 Stratton Building, Springfield, Illinois 62706.



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